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the gateway

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's Student Newspaper

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Volume 01

Friday, January 12, 2001

Issue 30

Senator Chambers to speak at UNMC

Melissa Kucirek

Nebraska State Sen. Ernie Chambers will be the featured speaker at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's 2001 Martin Luther King Day celebration on Jan. 15.

UNMC Public Affairs representative Walter Brooks said Chambers was contacted in hopes he will bring a fresh, balanced approach Martin Luther King's legacy.

"Senator Chambers was our first choice. We wanted somebody to come in and give a total picture of Dr. Martin Luther King," Brooks said. "There has been too much emphasis put on the 'I Have a Dream' speech. We want (Chambers) to bring a more down-to-earth assessment of him."

Brooks believes because King lived five years following the famous speech, there were many more issues he was dealing with just before his assassination.

"Dr. King was dealing with many issues at the time of his death," Brooks said. "We hope (Chambers) will put these issues in today's context, 30-years later."

Chambers is a senior legislator in the Nebraska Unicameral. He is one of three senators in Nebraska's history to serve more than 30 years.

This will be his first speaking engagement at UNMC.

"He is well-informed and has total recall of knowledge," Brooks said. "You never know what he's going to say; he doesn't write out his speeches ahead of time."

Chambers is expected to give a 45-minute presentation, after introductory remarks and singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

"Hopefully we will have a question-and-answer period," Brooks said. "Expect a lively discussion, not just on Martin Luther King, but on issues that were important to King."

The lecture begins at noon and will be located in the Storz Pavilion of the lower level of NHS Medical Center.

Marunda and Wright aim for student involvement at UNO

Katie Mullin

Newly inaugurated Student President/Regent Will Marunda plans to "keep the good times going" this year with the help of his partner Student Government Vice President Adam Wright.

Marunda and Wright were sworn in during a ceremony yesterday.

In his second term as president, Marunda plans on keeping up the trend of providing effective communication channels throughout the campus.

"Student Government has been really receptive this last year, more than it's ever been in the five years that I've been at UNO, and that's how it should be," Marunda said. "It keeps open lines of communication going with faculty, administration and most importantly with the student body."

Marunda said he will be spending less time in the office this year and more time talking to students and "getting out and being active in the student body."

He would also like to increase involvement in Student Government by bringing in people who have not had an opportunity to hold a leadership position in the past. He said many students have had an interest but not the time.

Enter Vice President Adam Wright.

Wright, a senior civil engineering major, has been absent from the student politics scene since his days at Omaha North High School. However, he has demonstrated remarkable leadership abilities on the field as a record setting tailback and co-captain for the Maverick football team — qualities that caught the attention of Marunda.

The new position of vice president allowed Marunda the unique opportunity to seek the assistance of a running mate during the election.

"I wanted to find somebody that maybe didn't have any experience in Student Government because when I got



photo by Chris Machian

Will Marunda and Adam Wright hope to increase the student involvement on campus.

elected as student body president, most people thought of me as a novice," Marunda said. "I didn't have any relevant experience."

After talking with coaches, teammates and people in the athletic office, and after tracking his career success in the Gateway and The Omaha World-Herald, Marunda thought Wright was the best person for the job.

Wright said he accepted the offer because he was ready for a new kind of challenge and because he has a great deal of respect for Marunda.

"I don't think I'd have run with anybody else," Wright

see Marunda, page 2

Bacon elected as Faculty Senate president

A.M. Renee

Among the several offices that changed hands over the holiday break, the Faculty Senate will start this semester with a fresh president in the pipeline.

Associate Professor of Political Science Wally Bacon, Ph.D., has been elected as president of Faculty Senate, beginning his term in fall 2001.

Faculty Senate represents the faculty to the administration and Board of Regents in governing the university. Bacon will serve as president-elect, while concurrently finishing his term as vice-president.

Bacon is not unfamiliar with the office. He has served twice before — once in the late 1980s and again in the mid 1990s. The Faculty Senate may not be an advocate's position, but Bacon is still enthusiastic.

"I look forward to working with the administration on behalf of the faculty to achieve our shared goal of improving our record as a university characterized by being student-centered, academically excellent and closely linked with the larger community," Bacon said.

Bacon's arrival to the UNO faculty in 1976 came by way of an undergraduate career at Colorado College and a Ph.D. in international relations at the University of Denver. He is an acknowledged specialist in post World War I Romanian and Moldavian history, with an eye towards diplomacy, economics and the changing political climate.

He also serves as president of the Central Slavic Conference, which is a professional organization of East Central European academics. In this role, he is busily preparing for a the upcoming American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Conference, scheduled for the first weekend in October and being hosted in Omaha.

Bacon admits his fascination with Romania is due, in part, to a slight bout of laziness.

"I didn't want to learn a Slavic language at the time," he said. "I had already studied French and German, and Romanian was the closest."

His shyness of the Slavic branch of the Indo-European language tree has not persevered, as he is now fluent in Russian, Serbo-Croatian and Bulgarian, as



courtesy photo

Wally Bacon will begin his term fall semester 2001.

well as Portuguese, Romanian, French and German. He publishes regularly in Romanian and Moldavian publications, writing and submitting his articles in the native language.

Bacon heavily credits the influence of his mentor Joseph Korbel for his career in international relations. Korbel, father to Secretary of State Madeline Albright and mentor of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, shepherded Bacon's career during its early years.

"He encouraged and inspired

me to go into an area that was not incredibly sexy at the time, and I've never looked back," Bacon said.

Bacon's interest in politics does not end in the international theater, as he regularly indulges his fascination with the smaller stage, serving on the community board for the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival. Not content as a mere administrator, guests to the Shakespeare Festival will recognize Bacon immediately.

"Whether or not you can appropriately call it 'acting', I'm the herald at the top of the hill, shouting and begging money from the passersby," Bacon said.

In addition, Bacon regularly participates in community theaters around Omaha, most notably with the Playwright's Company. He was bitten by the acting bug early, appearing in soap operas and films at age 10 during his childhood in New York City.

Active in both volunteer organizations and church activities, Bacon serves as the ecumenical officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska where his wife Lynne is a deacon.

"She chose to be ordained, but I myself didn't think I could take

orders from the bishop, so I serve in other ways," Bacon said.

Among his church projects are prison ministries and gay and lesbian ministries. He is most drawn to projects which encourage interdenominational cooperation and total communion.

"It is an expression of the Lund principle, which says 'everything we can do together, we should do together.'"

But Bacon sees his secular volunteer activities as tying in closely with his religious obligations. He works regularly with the Francis-Sienna House and also does fundraising for the Nebraska Aids Project.

"With the homeless, that's the way I express my belief in the presence of Christ in all human beings," Bacon said.

His association with the Nebraska Aids Project is a little more personal.

"I've had a lot of friends, people close to me, young men in our congregation, die of AIDS," Bacon said. "The most noticeable thing of it is that often they die alone, and that's horrible. It's sort of like our modern-day leprosy."

see Bacon, page 2

KBUL disc jockeys provide entertainment

Samantha Harvey

Disc jockey teams on radio are not uncommon. KEZO Z-92 has Todd and Tyler and KQKQ Sweet 98 has Max and Wayne. Although KBUL Maverick radio does not broadcast off the campus, it also has DJ teams.

Seniors Bryon Hill and Muhammad Williams started their radio show, the Ghetto Superheroes, four years ago. Since then, positive feedback from students has gained the duo the most air time over any other team or solo DJ on KBUL.

Although Maverick DJs are part of a team, they still maintain their own style and personality. Hill, a.k.a. Spec, and Williams, a.k.a. Black Man, have the longest running show on Maverick radio, and the Ghetto Superheroes is the first and only urban show on the UNO campus.

"We must be doing something right," Hill said. "There are a lot of people that come through here with their concepts or whatever and just can't do it."

During Williams and Hill's show, students mostly hear hip hop, rhythm and blues, jazz and even '80s tunes. However, they emphasized that their show will play any request.

"We do not discriminate music," Williams said. "You ask for AC/DC and if we can find it, we will play it."

The Ghetto Superheroes receive most of their music from record companies. They also receive promotional items that are given away during the show such as CDs and concert tickets.

"We gave away tickets to the Destiny's Child concert to anybody who walked in and asked for them," Williams said.

They receive many of the CDs before many local radio stations, and always play

the new music for listeners.

"We had Eminem's 'The Real Slim Shady' over four months in advance," Williams said.

"The biggest thing is we had Nelly's 'Country Grammar' over two years ago and we played it," Hill added.

Entertainment is the main focus of the team's show. Some of the entertainment featured on the Ghetto Superheroes has been break dancing, appearances by masters of ceremonies and poetry readings.

"We just try to keep the crowd entertained," Hill said. "We have fun on the mike and it comes across to the listeners."

Featured as a regular skit on the program is GAT, the Ghetto Aptitude Test, which quizzes participants in their knowledge about "being ghetto." Williams and Hill said this test will help them decide who will take over the show for them once they graduate.

Hill and Williams said although the show is urban, they will promote any campus organization's events, play all requests and will provide many different forms of entertainment.

"We do whatever the hell we want with no regards for anybody's safety," Hill said. "That's what the Ghetto Superheroes are all about."

Hill, a journalism major, and Williams, a criminal justice major, are also MCs in the hip hop group The Crossfade Family, which recently released an album titled "Middlenium" in local stores.

Maverick radio's longest running and first urban show, the Ghetto Superheroes, can be heard Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 1 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. Next week's up-close with KBUL DJs will focus on the Mike and Mike show.



photo by Chris Machian

Seniors Muhammad Williams and Bryon Hill (right) spin some "ghetto" tunes at KBUL in the Milo Ball Student Center.

Marunda overcomes challenges

from page 1

said. "I just like Will, and his situation is unique. I think he's a good person, and I think we're going to have a great relationship working together."

Wright said he and Marunda work well together because they have both proven themselves able to rise above adversity.

Wright endured the hardships of growing up in a harsh neighborhood and losing his father at a young age. He said it made him stronger and more driven to succeed.

"I could have made a million reasons not to succeed, but I decided to be self-disciplined and self-motivated," Wright said. "I think all of that has helped me to get where I am now."

Wright also wanted to overcome the unflattering stereotypes which imply that student athletes are only good for the sports they play. He wanted to prove that his talents lie beyond the football field.

"I've just been playing football for the university," Wright said. "That does a lot

for the university; it brings in money, but I just wanted to do something else, leave my mark in a different way. I don't want to be just a jock. I never have been."

Marunda has had a different kind of obstacle to overcome. He suffers from a very rare form of arthritis which nearly killed him.

But he believes that the hardships which he has faced have helped him shape his leadership skills and the ways in which he interacts with the people with whom he works.

Marunda said he has achieved all the personal growth working in Student Government that one could hope to achieve, and he looks forward to seeing the same thing happen for Wright.

Wright, on the other hand, wants to experience the challenge of trying something new and seeing how Student Government works. Both Marunda and Wright share the common goal of a fun and successful year.

Bacon brings experience

from page 1

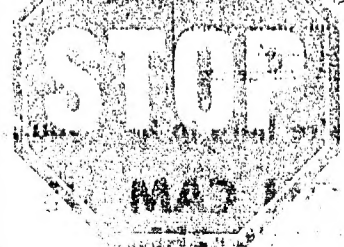
The Bacons also do a great deal of work with campus organizations and guiding young people. They have one adopted daughter, and they have opened their home to over 30 young people over the years, from university exchange students to church placements. Bacon sponsors the on-campus chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Organization,

motivated why what he describes as, "a call to serve all the members of our community, even those who have been ostracized."

He also regards his career at UNO as divinely influenced.

"I was called to be a teacher. It wasn't a decision that I made for myself," Bacon said.

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If you have any questions, please contact Campus Security at 554-2648.



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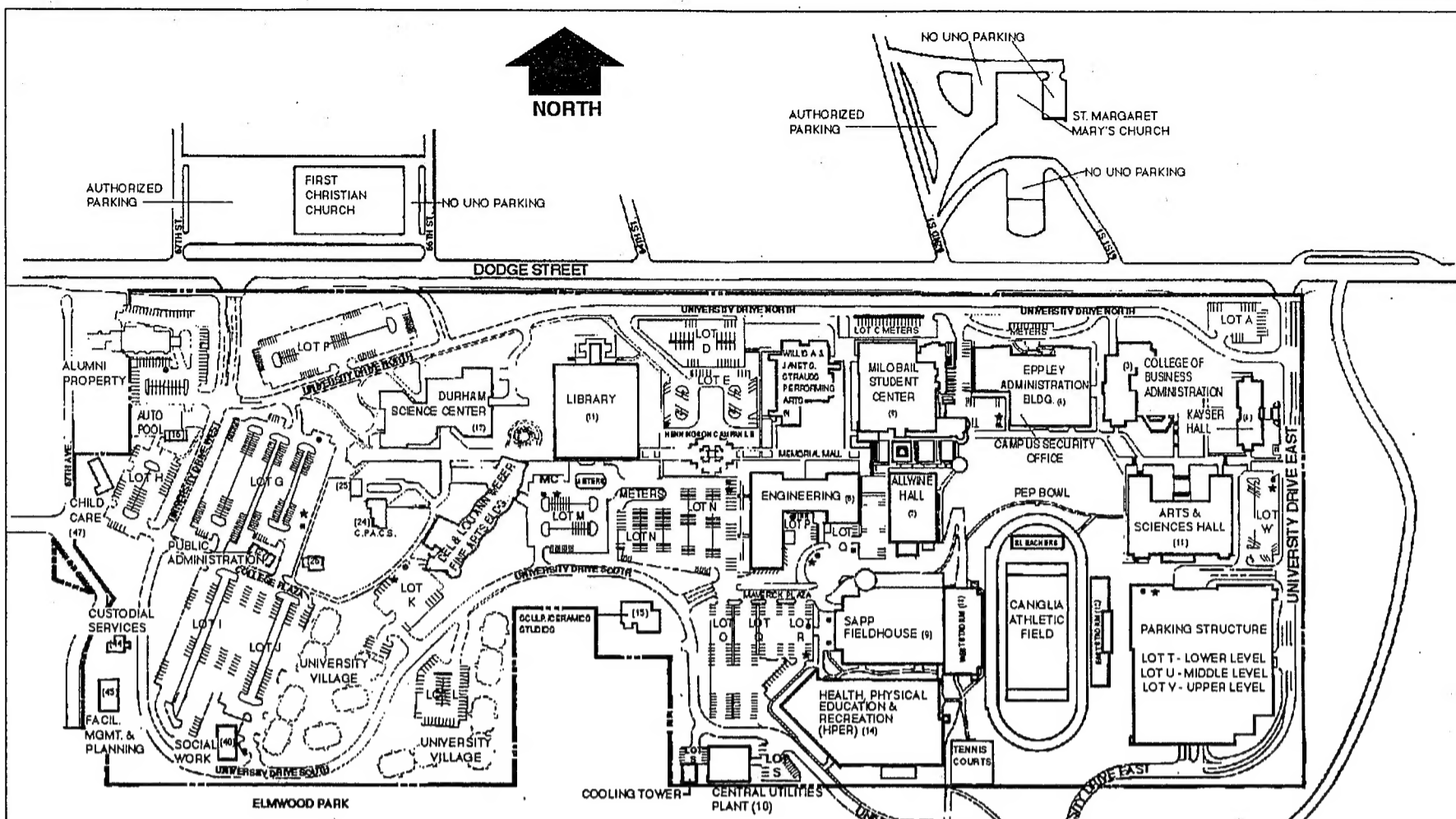
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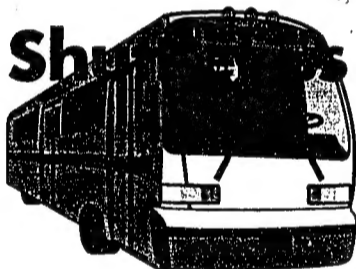
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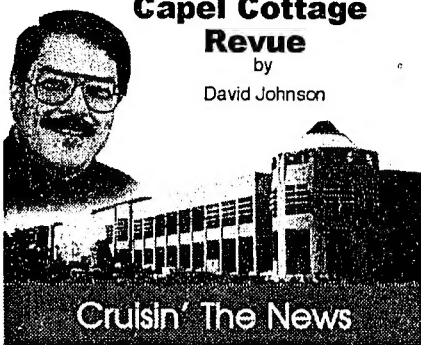


Lots 5, 6 and west section of lot 7 are designated shuttle parking lots. No parking permit is required.

Scott Residence Hall



opinions&editorials



- **Doogle, Doogle, Doogle**

A 17-year-old Alexandria, Va., boy is under investigation for allegedly intercepting telephone pages intended for doctors and prescribing treatments for six patients. Russell Seneca, chief of surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital, said the nurses followed the teen's phone orders, primarily because all of the treatments ordered were "medically appropriate under the circumstances."

I understand from unreliable sources the Alexandria police figured out he wasn't a real doctor when: 1) he didn't send anyone a bill, and 2) none of his phone responses came from the golf course.

- **I've Tried To Go Through A Whole Week Without Making Fun Of Fast Food, But I Just Couldn't Resist This Story.**

Britain's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has asked McDonald's to alter its McFlurry containers after reports of hedgehogs being trapped inside them. Apparently, hedgehogs are attracted to cartons tossed along the roads, crawl inside to lick off the ice cream, then become trapped when their "prickles" come up against the non-spill lip lids.

McDonald's? I would have thought hedgehogs would be more of a Sonic problem.

- **Headline News**

The 6 p.m. WOOT newscast on Jan. 9 listed as one of its top stories: Nine Days Into The Year And No Fatalities.

Apparently, you're not trying.

- **Take That, "Survivor"**

Brainpool TV of Bremen, Germany, will be launching a television series this year in which seven lucky winners will have reserve seats aboard Russian Soyuz rockets scheduled to lift off between 2002 and 2008. The show, called "Space Commander," will feature 600 contestants who will compete in events that judge their knowledge, physical fitness and social skills. Viewers will choose the winners who will then be trained to be cosmonauts. Each flight will cost Brainpool TV \$20 million.

Not to be outdone, U.S. television CEOs are now planning "Vote Me Off The Mir."

- **Research Grant Dollars At Work**

Following an extensive battery of tests, scientists at New York University have developed the following formula: $y(x,t)\sin(2\pi i\epsilon t + 2\pi i\epsilon x/\lambda\delta a)$ to explain ... how wind makes a flag flap. According to the report printed in *Nature* magazine, a flag will fly best in a strong wind.

And you thought the Florida recount was a waste of money.

- **Weed Of The Loom**

Zimbabwe police arrested a 26-year-old woman Dec. 26 at the Harare International Airport and charged her with smuggling marijuana with the intent to sell. The woman, who had 14 pounds of the drug stuffed inside her underwear, was picked up after airport security personnel noticed she had a "suspiciously large posterior."

Her problems are all behind her now.

- **Give The Little Lady A Big Hand**

Following the treatment of a 9-year-old girl who rubbed a hole in the palm of her hand after two hours on her Nintendo 64, doctors have issued a health warning to parents concerning the over-use of computer games. "If you sit anyone down and make them do repetitive movements for hours, all sorts of things can happen," Jane Greening of University College said.

Conception, for one.

- **Nothing To Clap About**

Doctors at the Edinburgh University Medical School in Scotland have discovered a new drug-resistant form of gonorrhea. More than two percent of the 4,415 gonorrhea cases studied were completely resistant to ciprofloxacin, raising a red flag. Dr. Hugh Young believes the strain originated in the Far East and is warning "sexual tourists" to stay away from the joys of Thailand.

That's Bangkok for you.

- **Another Women's Secret Blown**

Company magazine has just released the results of a survey taken by 1,000 career women in their 20s. When asked what really happens when two or more women go en masse to the restroom at a club or restaurant, two-thirds said it was to gossip, pop some Ecstasy or snort cocaine.

Kinda gives new meaning to the term "powder room."

- **Mobile Valet Service**

Harald Siebenhofer's Frankfurt, Germany, restaurant has introduced mobile valet service. No, it has nothing to do with your car ... "mobile phone sitters" take your phone at the door, then answer any calls you might receive while you dine. "Mobile phones destroy the atmosphere," Siebenhofer said.

To say nothing of the ozone layer, or brain cells for that matter.

Not John Ashcroft

The Chronicle (Duke U.)

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - Next week the Senate will begin confirmation hearings on the most controversial of President-elect George W. Bush's appointments — former U.S. Sen. John Ashcroft. While Ashcroft has a fine record of public service — in addition to his office as senator, he was governor and attorney general of Missouri — he is the wrong man for the job of U.S. attorney general.

The nomination itself is an unfortunate attempt to sneak some of the Republican Party's most conservative ideals in the back door. Bush, who ran on a platform of "compassionate conservatism," should have appointed an attorney general who more closely reflected the moderate views of the campaign. Ashcroft hails from the party's conservative wing and is a far cry from moderate.

It would be a different story if Bush had won in a landslide or had run on a conservative platform. Then an appointment like Ashcroft would seem more appropriate and less like a slap in the face to the divided American electorate.

Bush does not have the mandate to make so bold an appointment. The close election and its controversial conclusion showed an American populace deeply divided

and strongly favoring a moderate, pragmatic government — not one run by reactionaries and radicals.

Ashcroft is a divider, not a uniter. His viewpoints on many issues make him the antithesis of what a moderate nation needs.

Appointing someone like Ashcroft to this position will also cause a domino effect. The attorney general has total control over the enforcement of federal law, the appointment of prosecutors and the naming of the solicitor general. If Ashcroft were to name other

Ashcroft is a divider, not a uniter. His viewpoints on many issues make him the antithesis of what a moderate nation needs.

But it is not his collection of conservative viewpoints, nor any ill-conceived notion that Ashcroft would subvert federal law, that makes the former senator unfit for the position.

Every attorney general has limited resources and must selectively choose which cases to prosecute. And if his record as senator and governor is any indication of his priorities, then an Ashcroft Justice Department would be expected to focus more on laws relating to harsh penalties for drug traffickers and the death penalty than on issues of access to abortion clinics, anti-trust violations and civil rights.

While Americans care about all these issues, silence on matters of civil rights and abortion could greatly endanger the freedom of millions of Americans.

ultraconservatives to these positions, then a serious problem of prosecutorial neglect could arise. There is a lot riding on any attorney general — too much to trust the position to Ashcroft.

The Senate, which serves the entire nation and not just the wishes of any one state, should look at the results of the last election and dismiss this nominee.

This effort needs to come from both sides of the aisle, and moderate Republicans — who arguably have little in common with Ashcroft — should join Democrats in opposition.

Bush may come to regret having someone with such radical views hold a position so powerful. If he gets another chance to appoint an attorney general, he should heed the electorate's call and appoint someone who better represents all Americans.

What's Your Beef?



the gateway

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Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis of

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Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writers address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

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MBSC Room 115, Lower Level, by Dodge Study Room.



STOMP treats Omaha to memorable performance

review by Brian Brashaw

Among the broken broomsticks, dented garbage cans and shredded newspaper, beautiful music was made in the Orpheum Theater last weekend.

To describe what STOMP is exactly is not an easy thing to attempt. Well, here goes nothing.

All of those sounds that are ordinary to you — those little things that click and clack, burst and bang and rattle and roll — that's STOMP. All of those sounds you could live without; those that can be annoying, distracting and even unnerving to your everyday routine — that's STOMP. All of those sounds that somehow rhythmically come together to create the background noise for our everyday lives — that's STOMP. And what a hell of a show it is.

Using no dialogue, plot or pattern of any kind, STOMP comes together to create an amazing, well constructed, sometimes hilarious bit of Broadway that is well worthy of even the harshest critic's respect. Where else will you see garbage cans and kitchen sinks, buckets of sand and lighters, and all sorts of numerous household objects make such wonderful congruent sounds?

Maybe I should allow the quote from the STOMP Web site to attempt to describe itself:

"I would say that it is a piece of music theater, created by musicians: it's fast moving, very physical and full of energy, but it is performed with humor and with an eye to the dynamics of music and theater. I would hope that the audience is beguiled into enjoying 90 minutes of pure percussion, by the light and shade of a show that contrasts humor with muscle and sweat and that combines the raucous with the delicate."

Of course the best and only true way to describe it, is to actually see the show itself. You will not be disappointed.

However, I will try to describe what went on during the Omaha show Jan. 6.

The night started off with Cameron Newlin, the most onstage performer in the show, coming out to sweep the stage. Not sweeping the stage with dance moves or jumping around, but literally, broom in hand, sweeping the stage. Slowly Cameron developed a rhythm and other cast members showed up on stage, also brooms in hand, and they began a choreographed movement of bodies, brooms and sounds. When a broom broke, a stagehand would throw another in and not a step was lost. The lights went down on the first scene, and from then on, the entire audience, including myself, was hooked.

Sand then came into the picture bringing a coarse grinding sound that flowed surprisingly well. When I say these performers made music out of everything, I mean everything. The sand was dumped out for the performers to use, and all did a personal improvised dance step with it. All except Rick Willett. The shortest cast member became the outcast and ultimately the comic relief of the show as numerous times he was stuck with the brunt of the work, and the short end of the spotlight.

After the first few scenes it became difficult to tell which surprises and improvisations and/or mistakes were planned and which ones were genuinely not supposed to happen. That was also part of the beauty of the show.

The scenes went on using matchboxes, lighters, saws, sinks, brooms, hoses and countless other objects. It all led up to a drum finale with all eight cast members engaging in a trash-can-banging, lid-clashing, broomstick-wielding triumph of sound that rocked the building.

Thrown into the mix was a very cool crowd participation segment that continued at various points during the show. The crowd also got into the improvisation. Every once-in-a-while a stray viewer would throw his or her twist into the mix, in which the cast reacted to with more humor ... or was that planned too?

STOMP is an extremely entertaining show, with a surprising flow and performers that will leave you in awe. If you've ever beat on a milk carton or shaken a box of matches in rhythm, then for you, STOMP is a must-see.

But until STOMP comes back to town, quit drumming on the garbage can, and just take out the trash.

What a hell of a show it is.

Restaurant review

Wheatfields

review by Nicole Williamson

I recently received an associates degree, so my family decided to treat me to dinner. I have been in post-secondary school for five years now, so I at least deserved dinner. I chose to eat at Wheatfields, a new restaurant in One Pacific Place.

I had tasted its chocolate fondue and spinach dip at the grand opening of the new Fontenelle Forest conference center. I thought they were good, so I hoped their full menu was equally tasty.

I made a reservation for eight people four days in advance. We were seated at a table that only sat six comfortably. We were also placed in front of the waiters' station and a heavy-traffic walkway. Every time someone walked by, I had to lean in to prevent my head from being smacked by elbows. The backs to the booths are all low, and the acoustics in the room are outstanding, so there is no such thing as a quiet meal at Wheatfields.

The menu was disappointing. I realized after we arrived that Ron Popp, who also owns The Farmhouse and previously owned the Garden Café chain, owns Wheatfields. The menu at Wheatfields is very similar to that of the Garden Café. There is a multitude of potato casseroles to choose from, the bakery serves up the same muffin and cake choices, and the daily special menu even looks similar. I have found the Garden Café to be consistently disappointing, but I hoped that things would be different here. They were not.

First, I was brought the wrong drink, then told that they did not have what I asked for. I wondered why the waiter didn't tell me that when I ordered. I sent the drink back, but I was still charged for it. We then received our salads, served on boomerang-shaped dishes that reminded me of barf bowls. My fiancée's mother did not get her salad until the main dishes were brought out.

My mother and grandmother went for the reliable potato casseroles. Other dinner choices included lasagna, portabella filet and New York strip steaks.

My fiancée ordered a chicken dish that was described in such a way that we thought fondue was a side. We were wrong. That was the dish. He was



photo by Josh Williamson

Wheatfields, in One Pacific Place, presents itself as a fine dining establishment with a focus on European cuisine. Nothing fine or European was found.

served a steaming bowl of white cheese, a handful of day-old looking bread and some chicken chunks. It was very unappealing for the price we paid for it.

My meal, a New York strip steak, looked appetizing, but upon further inspection, was served up a cool medium rare rather than the medium well that I had requested. For a person who believes strongly in well-cooked meat, it was not exactly the highlight of my dinner. It was sent back and cooked.

We ate, got our bill and left. I dropped off a comment card (which had no space for name or phone number) on my way out.

In all, I would say my experience at Wheatfields was very disappointing and I would not recommend it to anyone. The cheapest meal on the menu clocked in at \$9.99, but expect to pay between \$15 and \$20 per person.

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Movie review | The Emperor's New Groove

review by A.M. Renee

And just how did the Emperor get his groove back? A llama, a tall, handsome Jamaican, John Goodman — oops, wrong movie! Sorry about that folks!

Disney's latest effort, "The Emperor's New Groove," is a curious and refreshing departure from its standard big musical, cast-of-lovable-characters format. The title is slightly deceptive, if you are expecting an adaptation of the fairy tale "The Emperor's New Clothes," but that is the only negative. The story is a classic fable, criticizing the injustices wrought by absolute power and praising the basic goodness of the common man.

Fueled with the smash box-office and critical success of "Beauty and the Beast," "Aladdin" and "The Lion King," Disney seems to have a collection of celebrity voice talent lining up, pushing and shoving for the chance to participate in a Disney feature film. Seeming as though Disney cannot keep up with celebrity voice demand, competing Dreamworks made an impressive animated debut with "The Prince of Egypt," using such talent as Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes and a stellar supporting cast.

"Emperor" is a different sort of production. A bit lower key than the grand spectacle of the major releases, Disney has culled their voice talent not from major film actors, but from television. Who better to play a spoiled, annoying egomaniac of small stature than former SNLer, current "Just Shoot Me" Finch, David Spade? Trust me, you don't necessarily have to like David Spade's schtick to like this film. For once, the nattering nat will get his comeuppance. Horribly pathetic from the first shot of the film, one can only regard being turned into a llama proper vengeance for years of snippy sarcasm.

Of course, Spade always worked best with a physically opposite partner, but unfortunately Chris Farley wasn't available. Luckily, Disney tapped the talents of a far more skilled and more animated actor, teddy-bearish John Goodman, to lend his voice to the kind-hearted, simple Pacha. I suppose anyone who could pay the bills playing Roseanne Barr's husband for so many years is endowed with the patience of Solomon — perfect for the sweet Pacha who can't seem to give up on the treacherous llama, Kuzco.

The cast is well rounded out by veteran actress Eartha Kitt, whose peculiar voice has

driven her song and dance career for decades. "Just Shoot Me" also contributed Wendie Malick in a small, but fiery, showing as Pacha's independent wife ChiCha. But the show is stolen, lock, stock and barrel by "Seinfeld" regular Patrick Warburton. Doesn't sound familiar? Puddy. You don't necessarily have to remember the character's name in this film. If you are a Seinfeld fan, you will be referring to him as "Puddy" throughout the film.

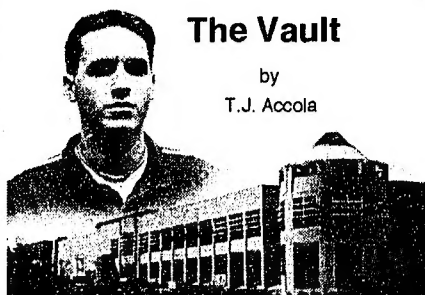
"Emperor" is a Disney experiment with form and format. Rather than a straightforward narrative that won't confuse anyone under the age of five, "Emperor" begins in the middle of the story, with a heavy use of flashback and Kuzco narrating, with a conveniently biased slant. Every now and again, with expert comic timing, Kuzco interrupts his own story as the characters wander off and jealously returns the focus to himself, much like a hyperactive, attention-seeking child.

Also, as previously mentioned, this is not a musical. There has been a public debate over the producer's decision to cut six songs from the film, specifically commissioned from Sting. As much as it pains a die-hard Sting fan to say this, the film doesn't suffer from the absence of his music. (Sting-man, Stingelhofer, I am sorry! I didn't mean it! You're still the King!) If anything, it just makes the film a little shorter with the lack of drawn out, MGM-homage musical numbers. Instead, there is more room for dialogue-driven comedy, along with a just a few moments of genius slapstick in a farcical restaurant scene.

The only possible complaint, and it's not really a complaint, just an observation: Disney seems to reserve its best animation for its big-budget major releases. The backgrounds and animation of this film, while adequate and entertaining, lack the incredible beauty and realism first found in "Beauty and the Beast." I'm still waiting for Disney to produce another incredible ballroom scene to take my breath away. Still, this film when reviewed upon the merits of a strong, smart, adult script will reel in just as many adults of their own free will as those who are shepherding their children. And, for those parents who are shepherding, the folks at Disney are still producing within your child's attention span. At 70 minutes, this film will give you a great laugh and get you home blessedly early if the kids are a bit restless.

Grade: A-

Your guide to buying a DVD player | part one



The Vault

by
T.J. Accola

So you got a substantial amount of money from various relatives this Christmas. Assuming you didn't spend it all boozin' over New Year's, you now have enough to buy that DVD player you've wanted for a while. But where do you start? Which DVD player is worth your good money? Fear no more, for we have written the definitive guide to choosing the right DVD player.

Today we present the first step in selecting the perfect DVD player.

Step One

High End, Low End or In-Between

Get your mind out of the gutter. That's not what we're talking about. What we're asking is just how spiffy of a DVD player do you want? Prices range from just under \$100 to several thousand dollars. Of course, the generic \$100 player isn't going to have much in the way of extras, and that's exactly what the DVD format is all about — extras. Fortunately, there are several lower-priced DVD players that are actually pretty nice. The Apex AD500, which you can easily find in most retail stores for less than \$150, is a pretty basic unit (although it does play MP3 tracks—very rare, especially for a DVD player that costs a mere \$150). The Sony DVP-S360, at just over \$200, is perhaps the best value. Despite what you may have heard, brand name does matter, and brands like Panasonic and Sony are widely regarded as having the best DVD players.

You're a starving college student just

like us, right? That probably means you don't have several K's to spend on a DVD player, but we should at least mention the better, more expensive models. Panasonic recently put a model on the market that has the ability to record onto a blank DVD-RAM disc, meaning you could record about a dozen of your favorite episodes of "Denver the Last Dinosaur" on a single disc. Of course, that would really be a waste, as there's no point in recording something of such low video and audio quality (such as a television show) onto a high-quality disc that costs you more than \$10 a pop. If you trust-fund kiddies out there really must have this super cool toy, we saw it at Mega Mart for around \$3,000. But at this particular point in the DVD format's history, and with HDTV right around the corner, it probably wouldn't be very wise to blow a couple thousand dollars on something that will only cost a few hundred within a few years.

Another thing to keep in mind is the fact that as the prices of DVD players increase, so do the amount of cool features and functions and overall quality. However, don't run out and buy a fancy-looking \$500 player just because you're a freak about uniformity in your home entertainment system, and you simply must have a DVD player with front paneling that matches the silver finish of your television, even though the DVD player itself doesn't have many more features than a \$300 player. Trust us. We speak from experience.

Wait! Don't rush out and buy a DVD player just yet. We've given you an overview on DVD prices, but we're not even close to letting you go out there on your own. There are still a few more steps to discuss, but we're all out of time and space at the moment. Next week, we'll talk about features on your prospective player, surround-sound setups and which DVD movies to best break in your player with.

The cheap and the choice

Rae Licari

Friday, Jan. 12 - Sunday, Jan. 14

"Laser Majic" Mallory Kountze Planetarium, Durham Science Center. Friday and Saturday nights find the planetarium transformed with intense laser light shows set to some of the hippest music around. Showing throughout the month of January at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. are productions of Pink Floyd's "The Wall." Tickets are \$5 for adults and children. For more information, call the physics hotline at 554-3722 or check out the Web site at www.physics.unomaha.edu.

"Dancer in the Dark" Mary Reipma Ross Theater, 12th and R St., Lincoln. This is probably your last chance to catch the highly acclaimed film by Lars von Trier before a video release. The extremely dramatic film, set in the 1960s, stars the incredibly talented genre-hopping musician Bjork as Selma, a

single mother and factory worker who is going blind and finds solace in Hollywood musicals. The film won the Palme d'Or at last year's Cannes Film Festival. Showtimes are at 6:30 and 9 p.m. tonight, at 1, 3:30, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Saturday, and at 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for students, senior citizens, kids and friends of the theater. Call the theater at (402) 472-5353 for more information.

"Tartuffe" Blue Barn Theater, 614 S. 11th St. The Blue Barn Theater brings one of Moliere's best and most controversial comedies to life starting this weekend and running through Feb. 4. Shows are Thursdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m. every week except for Friday, Jan. 26. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and senior citizens. For information and reservations, call 345-1576 or visit the theater's Web site at www.bluebarn.org.

The Osteoporosis Research Center at Creighton University is looking for women to participate in a short research study.
PURPOSE: to compare the bone effects of a prepackaged fruited, custard yogurt with pre-packaged jello added to your regular diet. The yogurt and jello are provided at no cost.
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TIME FRAME: commitment for one month (includes one week of fruited, custard yogurt 3x/day, two weeks off, and one week of prepackaged jello 3x/day) starting the week of January 22nd.
STUDY REQUIREMENTS: three morning visits (15 minutes each visit), two blood samples, two urine collections, three 3-day food diaries, willingness to follow directions.
STIPEND: \$100.
CONTACT: Susan Dowell at 280-4647 or Karen Rafferty at 280-4680. If you get the answering machine, please leave your name and phone number; your call will be returned the same day. Thank you very much for considering this study.

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Wrestlers road-trip this weekend; Ellebb leaves team

Melissa Kucirek

The UNO wrestling squad hopes to continue its impressive performance that began at the Jan. 6 Brand Open.

"When you have 10 in the finals and 12 place-finishers you feel good about your performance," Head Coach Mike Denney said.

Denney will have to split his team to participate in this weekend's action. Friday the team tackles South Dakota State, then it's on to Minnesota State-Mankato on Saturday. A second crew participates in the Dana Open, also on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits of SDSU boast five

returning All-Americans. Among the exceptional wrestlers for Head Coach Jason Liles are Paul Konechne and Jon Madsen.

Konechne, a recently-named NCC co-player of the week, is a three-time All-American out of Kimball, S.D. He has the 141-pound national championship to defend.

"Paul has very good mat sense," SDSU Assistant Coach Josh Keibaugh said. "He's a very smart wrestler, and was voted South Dakota Athlete of the Year by South Dakota sportscasters."

Madsen, at 230-pounds, is out of Carpenter, S.D. He's also a defending national champion.

"Madsen is very patient," Keibaugh said. "He's extremely quick and explosive."

Keibaugh expects the Mavericks to have a balanced attack.

"We're focusing on (Mack) LaRock, (Roderick) Ratcliff, (Scott) Antoniak and (Chad) Wallace," Keibaugh said.

"Minnesota-Mankato is still trying to sign more matches this season," said Head Coach Jim Makovsky. He added his team is still young and will need this dual to grab experience.

"I don't know if we can get an edge on UNO," Makovsky said. "It will be difficult for us to beat them. It will take an exceptional performance."

Denney's second squad clashes at the Dana Open on Saturday. He projects the Dana Open to be made up of 10-12 teams.

"In the past the teams have been mostly NAIA teams, NCAA Division III, and some Division II," Denney said.

Not joining the trip is senior heavyweight Tyrice Ellebb. The former Boys Town High School product and Chicago native has left the team for personal reasons. Ellebb's leaving will not affect this weekend's competition.

"He had personal things that overwhelmed him," Denney said. "The team understands this. Lance Tolstedt will be able to step in."

Hockey begins homestand

Brian Brashaw

The holiday break is over, and the Maverick hockey team has finally brought home a first-place trophy. The reward is four straight home games.

UNO (11-10-1, 6-7-1 in the conference) is currently in seventh place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association. The Mavericks play four consecutive home conference games during the next two weekends: first series against Bowling Green.

The Mavericks' early rivals, the Bowling Green Falcons, come into the Civic Auditorium with a 6-10-4 record, 3-7-4 conference mark. The two teams battled to a split last time they met, Dec. 8 and 9 in Bowling Green.

The Falcons fell to UNO 3-1 in the first game, and came back to win 7-2 the next night. BGSU is coming off a sweep of Princeton, but hasn't played a conference series since the last time they played the Mavericks.

The last time the teams met in Omaha was in the CCHA play-in game for the right to go to Joe Louis Arena in Detroit for the

CCHA Championships. In what most consider as the most memorable game in Maverick hockey history, UNO beat the Falcons 3-1 thanks to two goals by Jeff Hoggan.

The Mavericks' current scoring leader is sophomore forward David Brisson who has racked up 10 goals and nine assists. Jeff Hoggan and Allan Carr have also been consistent scorers for UNO. Hoggan has 18 points while Carr has 16.

Dan Ellis has established himself in net for UNO by taking home MVP honors from the SCI Holiday Shootout. Ellis made 53 of 56 saves to guide the Mavs to the championship.

Junior Greg Day leads Bowling Green with 14 goals and 10 assists.

Head Coach Buddy Powers is in his seventh season with the Falcons, compiling a 116-115-9 record.

Bowling Green has won four of its last five games, and is looking to climb in the standings. It holds the final CCHA playoff spot in tenth.

The rivalry ensues Friday and Saturday nights at the Civic Auditorium beginning at 7:05.

Men's basketball tries for first North Central Conference win

Cory Carlson

UNO hosts Minnesota State-Mankato Friday and St. Cloud State Saturday. Both games are set for tip-off at 8 p.m. at Sapp Fieldhouse.

The Mavs have not won a North Central Conference game yet, but they look to change that this weekend.

UNO is 5-7 overall, 0-5 in the NCC, and it sits in ninth place. Head Coach Kevin Lehman has had to shake up the lineup due to illness, injuries and inconsistent play in recent weeks. One bright spot has been the play of sophomore guard Seth Nelson.

Nelson, picking up the slack for backcourt-mate Corey Hahn who has been ill with mononucleosis, has led UNO in scoring, assists, steals and three-pointers in conference play.

MSU comes to town with a disappointing 1-4 conference mark and a 5-7 overall record. The "other" Mavericks boast strong front court play, led by junior center Nick Ellenberger. Ellenberger is the leading rebounder with 7.3 per contest, and a field goal percentage at just over 54 percent. He has two

double-doubles this year and 10 for his career.

Sophomore forward Josh Ziemke averages 13.1 points and 5.8 rebounds per game for MSU.

MSU is coming off its first conference win of this season with a win over Augustana. The Mavericks blocked eight Viking shots — one short of its season-high.

St. Cloud State is 10-2; 3-2 in conference play. SCSU returns three starters from a year ago.

The Huskies' top player is junior forward Rado Rancik. Rancik leads SCSU in many statistical categories, including points per game (19.8), rebounds (7.4) and shooting percentage (54.7 percent).

SCSU has outscored its opponents by an average of 40-34 in the first half this year, so a slow start for the Mavericks could prove costly.

Both teams won their respective home games last year, splitting the season series.

The Mavs hosts Wayne State Jan. 16 in a make-up game from the snowed-out Dec. 18 affair. UNO hits the

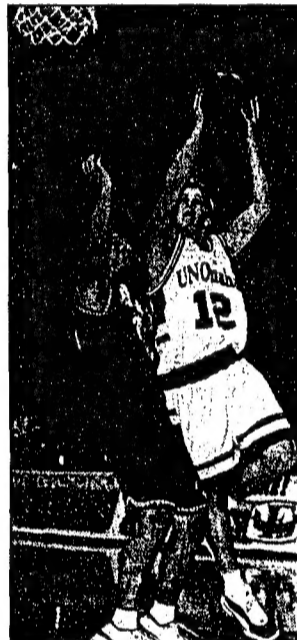


Photo by Josh Williamson

Seth Nelson moves to score in a recent game.

Mav women press home court advantage this weekend

Cory Carlson

The women's basketball team is riding a two-game winning streak going into this weekend's games against Minnesota State on Friday and St. Cloud State on Saturday at Sapp Fieldhouse.

UNO improved to 2-3 in NCC play, 4-9 overall thanks in part to some upgraded play by two starters.

Freshman forward Erin Wessling raised her points-per-game average from 7.8 to 9.6 since entering the starting lineup four games ago.

Sophomore guard Andi Sutherland also raised her scoring average from 6.9 to 8.2.

Both players must continue to play well if the Mavericks are to continue their conference hot-streak.

MSU (6-9, 3-2 in NCC) visits Omaha for a 6 p.m. tip-off Friday. These Mavericks came away with a 1-1 record last weekend, defeating Augustana, but toppled by South Dakota State.

MSU has gotten a spark off the bench from freshman center Danielle Bridges, who scored a career-high 23 points last Friday against Augustana. Bridges also led the team in scoring Saturday with 14 points.

Mankato boasts a balanced attack, evidenced by five players scoring in double figures two separate occasions this season.

The "other" Mavericks' primary threat is junior center Jennifer Gloom who averages 13 points and 7.4 rebounds per contest.

Both teams split last year, each team winning on its home floor.

UNO faces a stiffer challenge Saturday when an experienced St. Cloud State (10-3, 3-2 in NCC) comes calling. They sit in fourth place in the conference.

SCSU has three starters who average double figures in scoring. Junior forward Tina Schreiner leads the squad averaging almost a double-double a game. One of the top scorers in the league, Schreiner comes in with 18.5 points and 9.6 rebounds per contest.

The Mav defenders will also have to contend with a backcourt which includes three-year starter junior Nicole Persby. Persby is draining over 10 points a game.

The front court is led by former All-NCC and three-year starter Christine Williamson. Williamson is swiping 6.4 rebounds and scoring 17 points a game.

UNO won an overtime thriller at Sapp Fieldhouse a year ago 84-82, but SCSU leads the all-time series 18-16.

Following this weekend's games, the Mavs will hit the road for four consecutive games, including trips to both North Dakota schools on Jan. 26 and 27 before returning home Feb. 2 against South Dakota.

Track team to compete in Kansas State invitational

Cory Carlson

The women's track and field team compete in their first meet of 2001 at Manhattan, Kan., this Friday, with events beginning at 11 a.m.

UNO boasts a young team which received valuable experience last year. The K-State Invite is the first indoor meet this year and the second event.

The first event was the Winter Pentathlon held in Manhattan on Dec. 9.

The Mavs were led by a fifth-place finish by Lindsey Hunter with 3,100. Athletes Kalyn Byers (seventh, 3,075) and Amber Nielsen (10th, 2,831) also placed.

Head Coach Tim Hendrick's troops visit Ames, Iowa on Jan. 20 for the Iowa State Invitational.

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- Session Two
March 20 - April 10
Tuesdays - 6 to 8 p.m., HPER 230.

YOGA

Fridays-9:15 -10:45 am, HPER 231
6 sessions, \$50 students/\$55 other
12 sessions, \$80 students/\$85 other
Instructor: Manoj Sharma

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\$50/students,\$55/faculty-staff

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